Tale Feathers

August
2007

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Number 5

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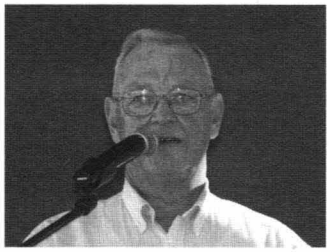
September Bird walk and trip info

....and MORE!!

Be sure to visit our website to get any new info after publication.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Torrey Berger



I am very excited by the prospects for SLAS during this 2007-08 year.

First, we have the announcement of the establishment of the Cathleen Creley Memorial Fund (see separate article herein).

Next, a glance at the enclosed calendar will indicate that plans are already well underway for a very full and active year.

Finally, and most importantly, we have an extremely talented and dedicated team of officers, directors and committee chairs. Dave Rogles, Treasurer, Linda Zurfluh, Secretary and John Solodar, Vice President-Finance are all returning from last year. Vicki flier is bringing a world of experience to her new position as Vice President-Education and Karen Meyer has hit the road running as Vice President-Conservation. Mitch Leachman, our Program Chairman, has already begun lining up educational and entertaining presentation for our membership meetings, and Pat Lueders, working with John Solodar as Co-Chairman, has set up a full schedule of field trips. With a team like this and with all the other hard-working board members, there is a very little left for me to do.

There are several "new" directions which you should look for this coming year. We have established a committee to look into possible involvement in Central and South America, on behalf of local breeding migrants. We will continue to put more emphasis on "beginning birders," and we will be looking closely at new approaches for funding and administration.

St. Louis Audubon Society

Opportunities and Announcements

Mission Statement
Of
The St. Louis
Audubon Society

Help our community sustain biological Diversity through Nature.

Goals
To foster an awareness and understanding
Of birds and other wildlife and their habitats

To educate our community so people can make Informed decisions about the natural world.

IN MEMORIAM

St. Louis Audubon Society has received memorial gifts from the following:

In Memory of Michael Barbaud
From: Barry Reeves, Dick Reeves and Martha Reeves Border
R. C. and N. L. Kuhn
Robert M. and Jean Bowe

In Memory of Neil Andre
From: H. J. Brown
Elizabeth R. Klemme
Wayne Goode
Wayne and Jane Goode Foundation
Jerry & Mary Lou Miller

In Memory of Robert A. Thurmond
From: Vito and Christina Biundo
Ronald and Marla N. Piontek

Interested in keeping informed of conservation issues? Our very own National Audubon Society has an environmental issues website that is highly informative. Please go to http://audubonaction.org to view the site and subscribe to receive Audubon Advisories and Alerts via email.

There are several recent victories we are happy to report. This summer brought the passage of the Clean Water Restoration Act (HR 2421), which restores the original intention of the Clean Water Act. The National Audubon Society lobbied for this issue. And when the Fiscal Year 2008 budget for the Department of Interior and the EPA was released, it appears to be the best funding bill for conservation and the environment in over a decade.
Good news for birds and bird lovers.

Binoculars Wanted

The Saint Louis Audubon Society is partnering with Birders' Exchange, a nonprofit organization that helps get equipment for ornithological field research to scientists in Central and South America. We are looking for donations of new and used waterproof binoculars and scopes, tripods, backpacks, and field guides covering South America, Latin America, and the Caribbean. Donations can be given to any Saint Louis Audubon field trip leader, or can be dropped off at the Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center in Kirkwood, Missouri. If you have any questions about making a donation please call Eric Jeltes 314-210-3404.

Ten ways to Help the Environment

Vicki Flier

Years ago Audubon Magazine had a list of the top ten things you could do to help the environment. Recently, the Population Connection published their top ten things such as buy a fuel efficient car, eat meat free once a week, buy locally grown and produced food, change light bulbs to florescent bulbs and so on. These are very valid options but how many of us can afford to buy a $35,000 car. My top ten list would include things we can do as individuals and not cost too much.

On my list of Top Ten I would put buy USA or European made products **first**. Tonight I heard a news piece on KWMU about Chinese catfish imports. FDA inspections have shown prohibited amounts of antibiotics in the imported catfish which adds one more reason to not purchase products made in countries that have no environmental protections. Products made here and in most western countries have to comply to our FDA standards and with EPA air pollution standards in the manufacturing process. Many Asian imports don't. Of course, you are going to have to pay more but it is worth it in the long run as you are investing in the environment.

Second on my list would be to buy products packaged in recyclable material. Of course, you are (I am assuming here) recycling, reusing and reducing what you use and buy, but some packaging is NOT recyclable. Yes, you might pay more but less is going into the landfill here at home. Once again, you are investing in the environment.

Another on my list would be to remember the mantra from the late 60's early 70's; two kids per couple or only replace you. I believe that EVERY problem in the world today can be traced back to overpopulation. War, starvation, pollution, high energy prices, high housing prices, you name it I have an argument to take it back to overpopulation.

A big one on my list would be to pass on our love of nature to others. You can do this formally or informally. The Master Naturalist Certificate from St. Louis Community College at Meramec is designed to help educate adults and encourage them to pass that information and enthusiasm along to others. That would be the formal but you can volunteer with us to talk to people at many of the "fairs" we attend several times a year. Become a "special events" volunteer. It is as informal education as you can get.

We, on the education committee, pass along our love of the environment in the classroom every time we step into the room. This coming year you have the opportunity too join us. We are starting a new class of *classroom speakers* in the late fall. If you think you might like to join us in the classroom you are invited to an informational meeting in September. We will demonstrate what we do in the classroom, and set up shadow training plus a formal training session in November. Call Vicki Flier for more information or to sign up for the Monday, September 9th meeting at 314-968-9166

September Birding Walks & Trips

September 8th— 8:00am Tower Grove Park

Tower Grove Park is a migrant trap in the city of St. Louis, and the leader for this trip, Torrey Berger, will be assisting the participants in finding and identifying difficult Fall warblers and other Summer residents in the park. Please meet at the entrance to the Gaddy Bird Garden. This will be a morning trip and should be finished by noon.

CARLYLE PELAGIC TRIP

The St. Louis Audubon Society will be offering the annual Carlyle Pelagic Trip on **Saturday, September 22, 2007**. The target bird will be the generally pelagic Sabine's Gull, with hopes for a possible Jaeger or Red Phalarope. This is the peak of Fall birding at the best birding area within an hour or so drive from St. Louis. Warblers and other migrating land birds should be at their peak. The Raptor migration will be in full swing as well. A variety of Gulls and Terns will likely be present in good numbers, the birding can be very exciting, and the boat ride around the lake is calm and just plain fun! This will be one of your best opportunities to see over 100 species of birds in one day. Space for the boat portion of the trip is limited to 24 people. The cost of participating is $25.00 per person to cover boat rental and gas. You must pay in advance to confirm your reservation. Please bring old bread, pretzels, or big bags of popcorn (the best!) which we can use as chum to draw the gulls to the boats. All ages and skill levels are welcome.

Before the pelagic portion, we will bird at Hazlet State Park near Carlyle from 6:45am till 10:30am. We will be looking for migrating land birds. Birding will continue after the pelagic, and you are welcome to join us for dinner at the end of the days' activities.

TRIP LEADER: Joe Eades
MEETING TIMES: Land portion: 6:15am
Boat Pelagic only: 10:30am
MEETING PLACE:
Land portion: McDonald's on IL Highway 127 in Carlyle, IL. (Just north of the intersection of highways IL 50 & IL 127).

Boat Pelagic portion only: West Access Marina, Carlyle Lake

Please bring a sack lunch and plenty of water. Fast food will be available, but you will need snacks and drinks. There will be a fair amount of walking so wear comfortable shoes. You will need a hat and sunscreen on the water.

For more information, contact Joe Eades at joseph.w.eades@monsanto.com. Information on lodging and camping at Carlyle Lake is available at this link: http://carlylelake.com

Please make your checks payable to Joe Eades and mail them at least 2 weeks in advance to:

Joe Eades, 517 Willow Lane, Kirkwood, MO 63122

Previous Pelagic Photo provided by Mike Grant.

Missouri Bird Conservation Conference set for August

The Missouri Bird Conservation Initiative (MOBCI), a partnership of over 40 organizations that care about birds, is pleased to announce the 5th annual Missouri Bird Conservation Conference, to be held on **August 24 and 25, 2007,** at the Holiday Inn Select in Columbia, MO. The theme for this years' conference is "Dealing with Exotics". Attendees can expect opportunities to listen to informative presentations dealing with exotic/invasive species impacts on birds and their habitats, and participate in formal and informal discussions related to building habitat-based partnerships to address this issue.

To view the agenda, or find out more about the conference, including how to register, visit www.mobci.org or call 573-447-2249.

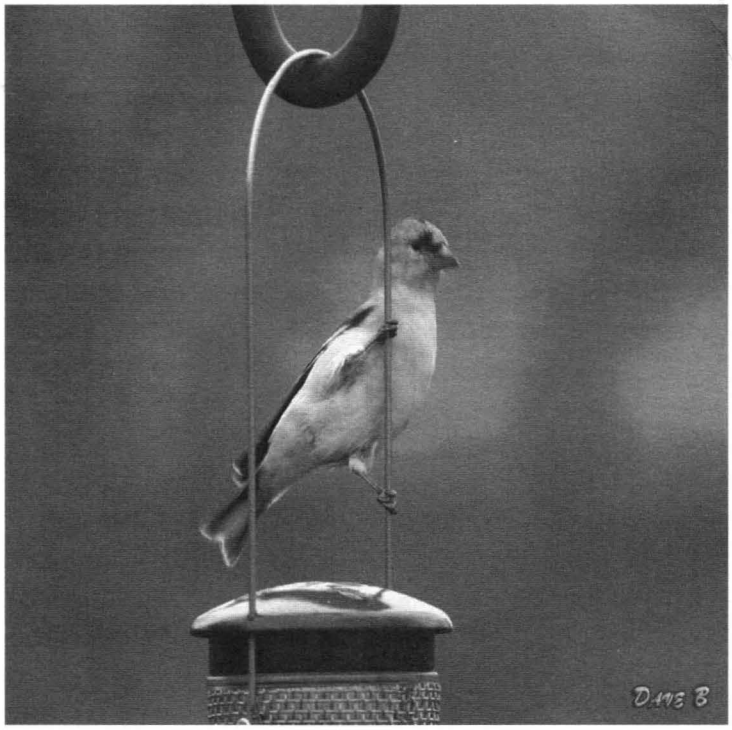


Photo submitted by Dave Beidle

Photo submitted by Dave Faintich

Audubon Missouri's Wild Cat Glades set to Open September 8 in Joplin

The Wildcat Glades Conservation & Audubon Center, located in Wildcat Park, Joplin, Missouri, is adjacent to some of the last remaining chert glades; a globally unique habitat found in only this area and biologically rich Shoal Creek, an important place for migratory birds and other wildlife. The Audubon Center is a partnership project of Audubon Missouri, the City of Joplin and the Missouri Department of Conservation. The Center itself is a celebration of nature. Innovative "green" technologies create a truly distinctive building in keeping with our mission of appreciating, conserving and understanding our natural world. The local Missouri Department of Conservation offices are also located on site.

There will be outdoor learning stations, indoor classrooms, a reference library, interpretive exhibits, children's discovery area, nature store, wildlife viewing areas, and trails to explore throughout the area. Wild Cat Glades Conservation & Audubon Center is located just off Interstate 44 just south of Joplin.

Volunteer with the Litzsinger Road Ecology Center

If you're looking for a reason to be outdoors more and enjoy working with schoolchildren, consider volunteering at the Litzsinger Road Ecology Center. LREC is located on 34 acres in the heart of metropolitan St. Louis. Managed by the Missouri Botanical Garden, LREC partners with students and educators to investigate and restore local ecosystems, including a bottomland woodland, tall grass prairie, and a creek.

Education volunteer training will begin on Monday, Sept. 10 and runs consecutive Mondays through Nov. 12 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. During training, volunteers will become familiar with the site, learn inquiry-based teaching strategies, and gain an understanding of basic ecology. Trainees will have many opportunities to observe school groups and practice teaching.

Other opportunities to volunteer at LREC include assisting with native plant propagation, site preservation, or scientific investigations.

To start volunteering at LREC, contact Jackie Juras at (314) 577-5187.

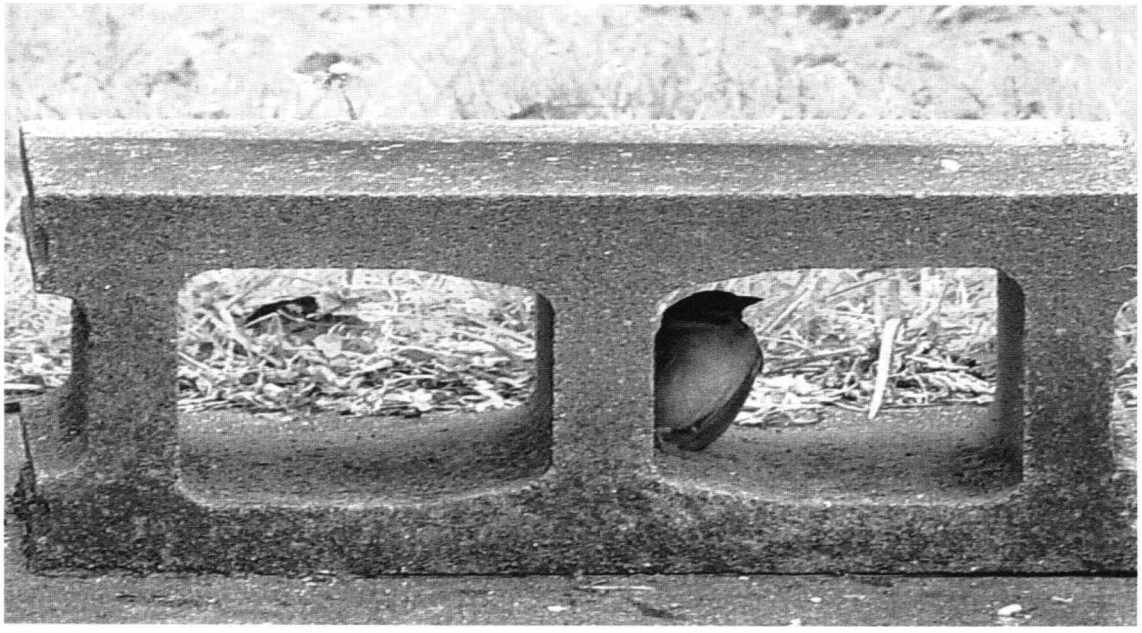
Forest Park Bird Walks for Beginners to Resume

St. Louis Audubon Society Board Members, Lynne Breakstone and Jim Wilson, will lead two hour workshop to introduce beginners to bird watching. This class is being held in Forest Park at the Dennis and Judith Jones Education and Visitor Center. There is no fee to participate. The workshop will be held on the first Saturday of each month. Please watch the SLAS website of a schedule or changes.

The workshop will take place indoors with a short walk outside, weather permitting. Please come dressed for one-hour of birding with only moderate walking.
Topics will include: Bird Identification, how to use field guides, helpful hints in using or choosing binoculars, and tips for your backyard feeding station.

Saturday, August 5, 2007
Saturday, September 4, 2007

Dennis & Judith Jones Visitor Center
5595 Grand Drive in Forest Park
Kindly RSVP to Anne Grossmann at (314) 367-7275, ext 14 or email to agrossmann@forestparkforever.org. Class limited to 25 people.



Eurasian Tree sparrow taking cover from rain. Photo submitted by Dave Faintich

CATHLEEN CRELEY MEMORIAL FUND ESTABLISHED

By Torrey Berger

Through a generous gift of stock which generated proceeds in excess of $115,000, our own Director, Tom Creley, has established the Cathleen Creley memorial Fund as a St. Louis Audubon Society endowment fund. Tom has directed that only the income of the fund is to be used by St. Louis Audubon for strictly conservation and education programs.

The Fund is in memory of Cathleen Creley, Tom's late wife. The Creleys were married for forty-three years, until Cathleen was taken by Alzheimer's disease. They had six sons who are now living in Germany, Texas, Oregon and one in St. Charles, Missouri. Tom is a native of St. Louis who was educated at Washington University in Chemical Engineering and had his career in industrial engineering and management consulting.

In establishing the Fund, Tom has challenged St. Louis Audubon to double its principal amount within the next five years. The establishment of the Fund presents St. Louis Audubon with the opportunity to greatly expand our horizons in the education and conservation fields and Tom's challenge is certainly one worth meeting. We will be organizing toward that end, and you can expect to hear more in the future. In the meantime, if you would care to contribute to the Fund, make checks payable to St. Louis Audubon Society and mark it "Cathleen Creley Fund" and mail to our Post Office Box.

In talking to Tom, I know that he is anxious to see the Fund support real, on the ground, habitat and conservation projects and practical nature education activities in the United States as well as in those countries where our migrant birds spend their winters.

We are truly grateful to Tom for his generosity and dedication to the St. Louis Audubon mission.

Tale Feathers

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To contact the editor, call evenings to 314-576-1473 or
email: mdueren@charter.net.

St. Louis Audubon Society 2007 - 2008

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St. Louis Chapter ONLY Membership Application

By using this Application, your membership dues will go directly to the St. Louis Audubon Society Chapter. Your membership dues will support local issues that are important to you, programs at our general meetings, and ***Tale Feathers***, our newsletter.

Chapter Only Dues are $15.00 per year and cover all members living at the same address.

Please complete the form, enclose a check payable to SLAS, and mail to:
St. Louis Audubon Society, P.O. Box 220227, Kirkwood, Missouri 63122.

PLEASE PRINT

Circle One. NEW RENEWAL

Name: _____

Address: _____

City:_____ State:_____ Zip Code:_____

E-mail (optional): _____

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